AWARENESS CONCEPT

Why we create safer spaces

We and everybody we work with at our events (Kweer Ball, TEA, Explicit, PIT and Drag Brunch Zurich) are committed to creating safer spaces. We welcome every color of the rainbow, every letter of the alphabet and LGBTQIA+ allies. Our events are queer experiences, by queers for queers, so personal expression, feeling good and feeling accepted are at the heart of our safer spaces. For us, a safer space means being together and celebrating with awareness.

What our values are

Our Awareness Krew (yes, we love to brand everything) is essential to creating such a safer space and is the guardian of our values:

Respect	Love	Consent
Inclusivity	Experiential	Fun

Because everyone understands these values differently, it is essential that we build as much shared understanding as possible and respect each other's boundaries.

Care before, during and after

Awareness does not start at the door and it does not end when the music stops. Care runs through the whole night, and it belongs to our guests as much as to us. We are introducing this approach at Explicit and PIT first.

Before: we share the dress code, the rules and the consent basics on social media ahead of the party. We invite you to plan your night with your people.

During: our visible Awareness Krew, calm spots to take a breather, and you, looking out for each other.

After: we check in on social media after the party, because the comedown is part of the night too. If something is hard to put down, you can talk to us (see "After the party" below).

This is how we do it

Every event has a designated Awareness Krew. You can recognize us by our t-shirts. Some of us also work on the door crew, the light crew or the hosts, and some of us are there solely as Awareness Krew. At the door, an Awareness Krew member greets you and tells you about our concept. Some venues have their own awareness concept too, and we follow it alongside ours.

Awareness Krew in the venue

Inside, we are your first point of contact if you experience or witness a boundary being crossed, or if you are not sure whether something happened. You can come to us with anything, big or small. We take you to a calm spot, listen, do not judge, and focus on how you are doing. We only speak to the other person if you ask us to. Only a yes counts as a yes, and a no ends the conversation. We work together as a team on what needs to happen next, and we involve security or the organizers when we need to.

Our work is a mix of prevention, care and intervention.

Awareness is a community job

The Awareness Krew cannot be everywhere, and we do not want to be the only ones looking out for each other. You are far more likely to listen to a close friend than to a stranger in a t-shirt, so we ask you to be part of the care. Awareness belongs to all of us.

What we ask of you:

- Arrive with your people, or find some on the night.
- Check in with your friends and ask "you alright?" like you mean it.
- If something feels off, say so, and step in if you can do it safely. You never have to handle it alone: bring a friend and find us.
- Respect a no from anyone, straight away.

If a friend comes to us with you, they are welcome to stay if you want them there. We thank everyone who looks out for each other.

Where this comes from

Solidarity, care and harm-reduction are inherited, not invented. Some of what you read here, including the idea of looking after each other before, during and after a party, was shared with us by Les Chipies (Querelle, in Lausanne). They didn't invent it either: these care and harm reduction practices come from queer, trans and community-health movements and struggles that long predate us. We received them, adapted them to our nights, and now we pass them on. Take them, improve them, pass them on.

Each party has its own rules

Dress codes, play rooms and other house rules differ from party to party. We explain them in our posts before the party and again at the door. By joining us you accept and respect these rules and agree to act only with consent. If someone does not respect our concept, we may ask them to leave.

After the party

The end of the party is not the end of the care. After each event, we post on social media in our own voice: water, food and sleep, sexual health (testing, PrEP and PEP, symptoms or injuries), the comedown, and a reminder to text your people. Mixed feelings after an intense night are normal.

If you want to talk to someone, or something from the night is hard to put down, send us a message in the message section of the party's Instagram account. Whoever answers listens first, does not judge, and lets you set the pace. We handle every message with care and discretion, and we take it as seriously as a report made on the night.

Our commitment to you

We commit to providing the safer space described here and to giving our Awareness Krew everything they need to do so. We publish awareness posts before every event and aftercare posts after it. If you tell us about something after the event, we take it as seriously as our Awareness Krew does on the night and follow the same steps.

Explanation of terms

Safer space vs safe space: You might notice that we say "safer space" rather than "safe space". This is to make clear that no space can ever be 100% safe for everyone, because everyone's safety needs differ.

FLINTA: Female, Lesbian, Intersex, Non-binary, Trans and Agender. It refers to anyone who is not a cis man.

Aftercare: Care after the party, mainly through our social media posts and the message section of the party's Instagram account. It covers your body, your sexual health and your feelings, and reminds you that nobody has to process a big night alone.

We learn from each other (guests, Awareness Krew and organizers), and through that learning our Awareness Krew and our concept keep improving.

KWEER BALL EXPLICIT PIT TEA DRAG BRUNCH